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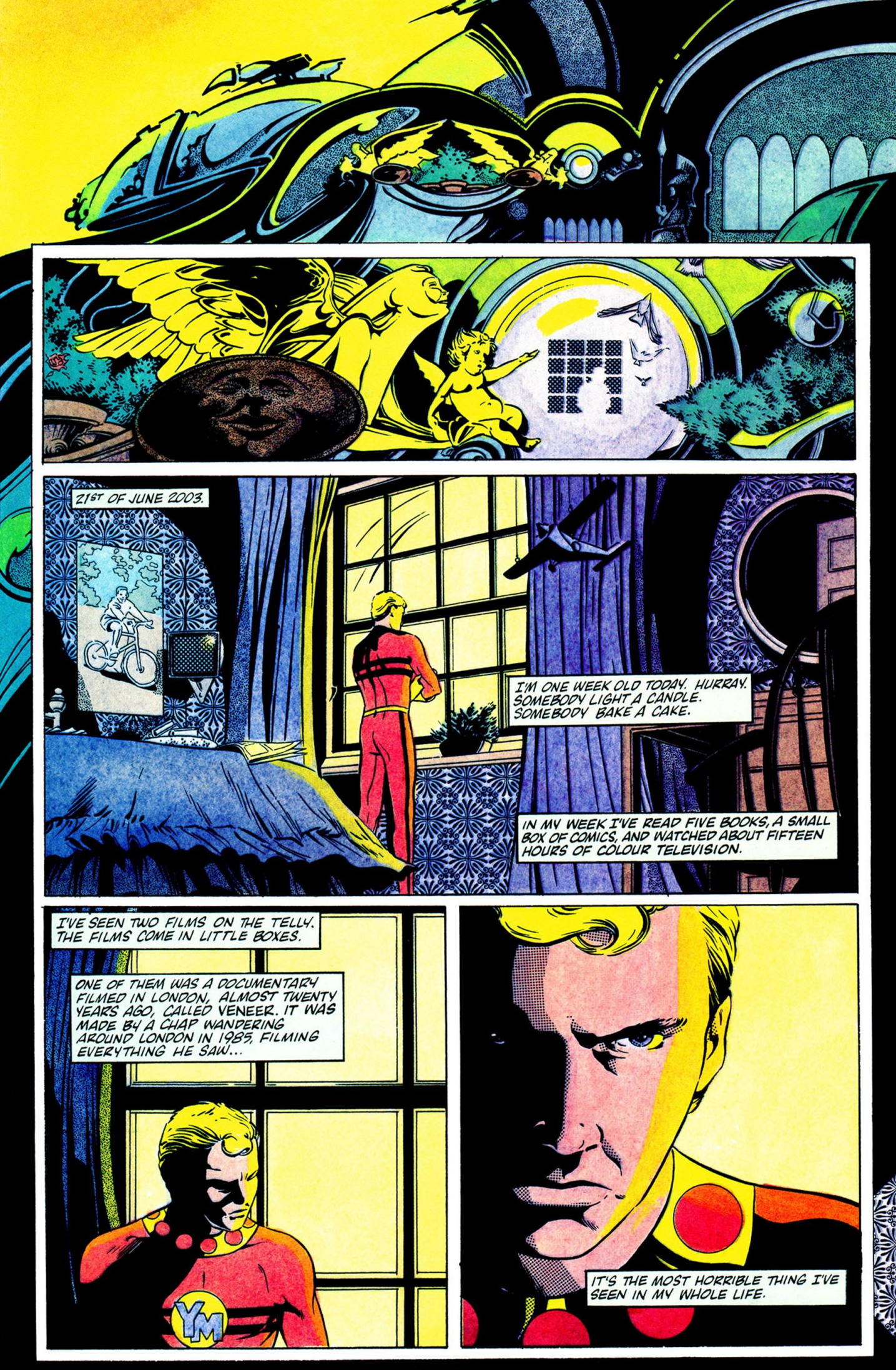
21ST OF JUNE 2003.
I'M ONE WEEK OLD TODAY. HURRAY. SOMEBODY LIGHT A CANDLE. SOMEBODY BAKE A CAKE.
IN MY WEEK I'VE READ FIVE BOOKS, A SMALL BOX OF COMICS, AND WATCHED ABOUT FIFTEEN HOURS OF COLOUR TELEVISION.
I'VE SEEN TWO FILMS ON THE TELLY. THE FILMS COME IN LITTLE BOXES.
ONE OF THEM WAS A DOCUMENTARY FILMED IN LONDON, ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AGO, CALLED VENEER. IT WAS MADE BY A CHAP WANDERING AROUND LONDON IN 1985, FILMING EVERYTHING HE SAW...
IT'S THE MOST HORRIBLE THING I'VE SEEN IN MY WHOLE LIFE.

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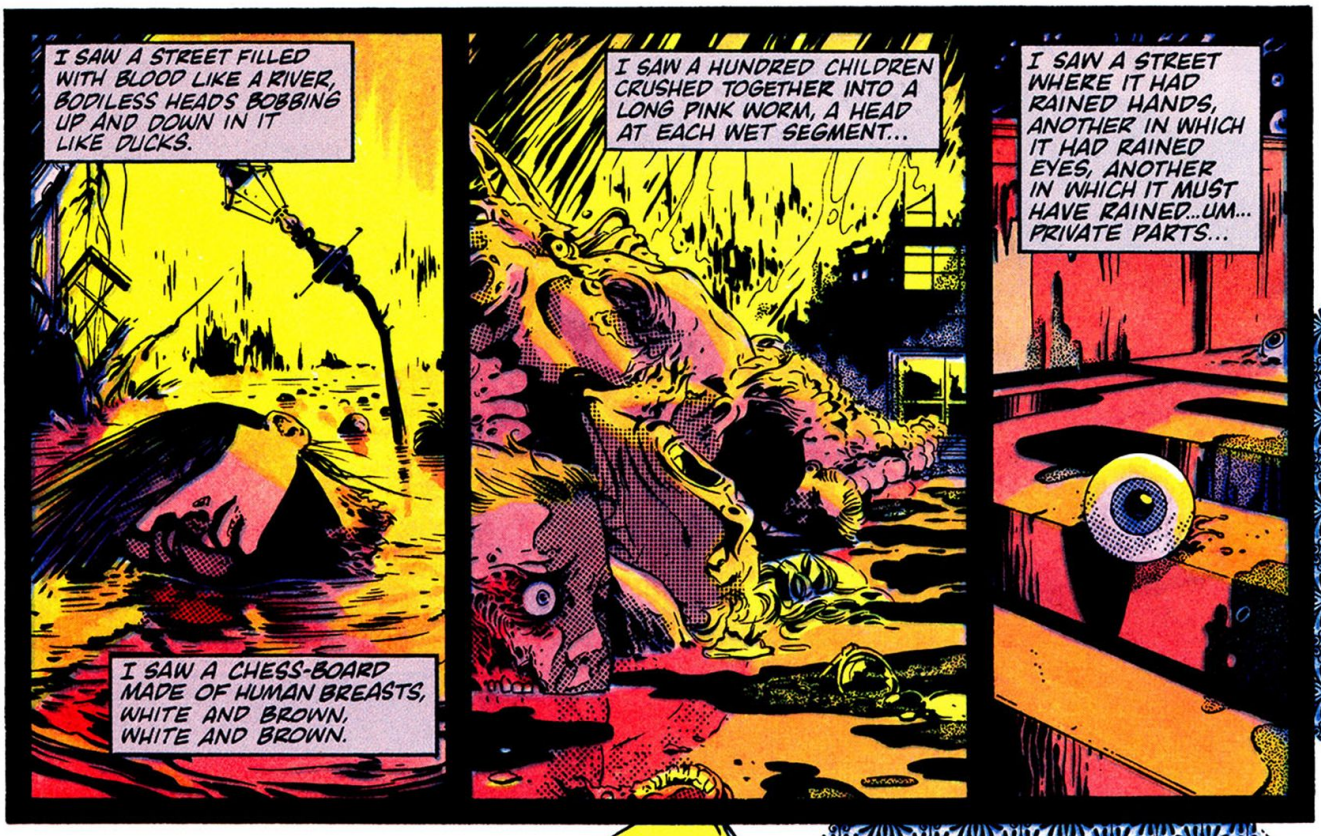
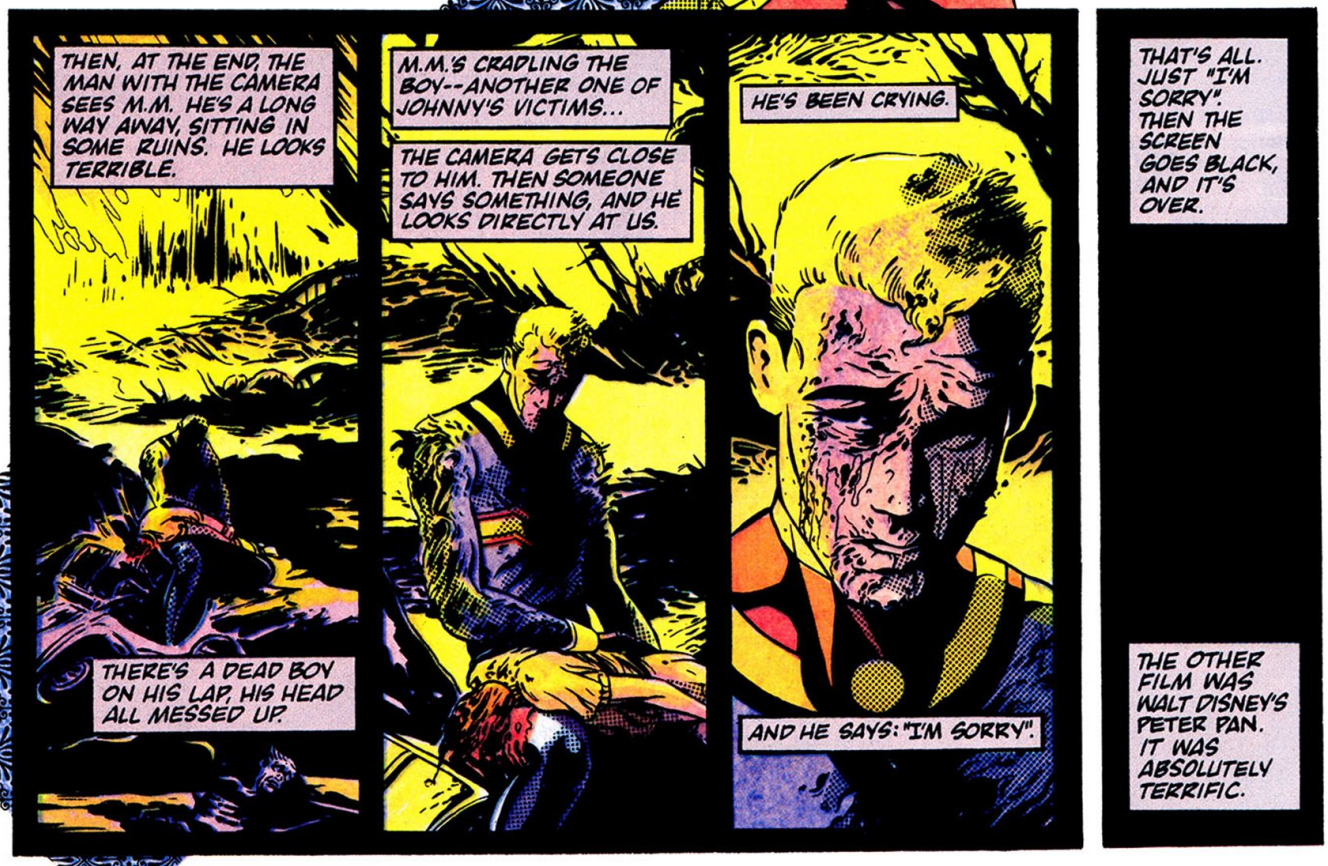

I SAW A STREET FILLED WITH BLOOD LIKE A RIVER, BODILESS HEADS BOBBING UP AND DOWN IN IT LIKE DUCKS.
I SAW A CHESS-BOARD MADE OF HUMAN BREASTS, WHITE AND BROWN, WHITE AND BROWN.
I SAW A HUNDRED CHILDREN CRUSHED TOGETHER INTO A LONG PINK WORM, A HEAD AT EACH WET SEGMENT...
I SAW A STREET WHERE IT HAD RAINED HANDS, ANOTHER IN WHICH IT HAD RAINED EYES, ANOTHER IN WHICH IT MUST HAVE RAINED...UM... PRIVATE PARTS...

THE FILM'S NINETY MINUTES LONG.

NOBODY REALLY SAYS ANYTHING FOR THE FIRST EIGHTY-NINE.


THEN, AT THE END, THE MAN WITH THE CAMERA SEES M.M. HE'S A LONG WAY AWAY, SITTING IN SOME RUINS. HE LOOKS TERRIBLE.
THERE'S A DEAD BOY ON HIS LAP, HIS HEAD ALL MESSED UP.
M.M.'S CRADLING THE BOY--ANOTHER ONE OF JOHNNY'S VICTIMS...
THE CAMERA GETS CLOSE TO HIM. THEN SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING, AND HE LOOKS DIRECTLY AT US.
HE'S BEEN CRYING.
AND HE SAYS: "I'M SORRY".
THAT'S ALL. JUST "I'M SORRY". THEN THE SCREEN GOES BLACK, AND IT'S OVER.
THE OTHER FILM WAS WALT DISNEY'S PETER PAN. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC.

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THE SILVER AGE 2
WHEN TITANS CLASH!
NEIL GAIMAN, WRITER
MARK BUCKINGHAM, ARTIST
D'ISRAELI, PAINTER
WAYNE TRUMAN, LETTERER
VALARIE JONES, ANDY WILLETT, EDITORS
CLARK WESTERMAN, ASST. EDITOR
SOME OF THE COMICS WERE ABOUT ME. SOME WERE ABOUT THE REST OF THE MIRACLE FAMILY.
I MISSED THE EAGLE AND THE HOTSPUR: JORDAN SAID THEY COULD SEND FOR SOME OLD ONES FROM ARCHIVES, BUT I TOLD HIM NOT TO BOTHER.
YOUNG MIRACLEMAN
Mark Buckingham
ANYWAY.
THREE DAYS AGO I WENT OUT IN LONDON. EVERYBODY CHEERED.
THIS AFTERNOON, I HAVE TO GO OUT IN NEW YORK.
I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE TO. BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN TO AMERICA. IT'S REALLY JOLLY EXCITING.
AND IN A COUPLE OF DAYS' TIME I GO TO PEKING. THEN TO MOSCOW. THEN TO BRAZILIA. THEN TO SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO AUSTRALIA. I WANT TO SEE A REAL LIVE KANGAROO.
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN!
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EXCUSE ME, SIR...
HELLO, JORDAN.
IF YOU'RE READY, SIR. THE WARPSMITHS ARE WAITING.
YES. I'M READY.
LISTEN, JORDAN. CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
CERTAINLY, SIR.
WHY DO YOU WORK HERE? I MEAN, ARE YOU PAID ANYTHING?
CERTAINLY NOT, SIR. WHAT COULD ONE BE PAID?
BUT THEN, HOW... WHY...
ONE IS A VOLUNTEER, SIR.
THERE IS A WAITING LIST OF MANY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO WISH TO BE ON THE OLYMPIAN HOUSEHOLD STAFF.
IT IS AN HONOUR.
SIR? ONE DOES NOT WISH TO HURRY YOU...
SORRY.
OH--JORDAN. I'VE RUN OUT OF STUFF TO READ.
I'LL MAKE SURE A SELECTION IS WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU RETURN.
THANKS.

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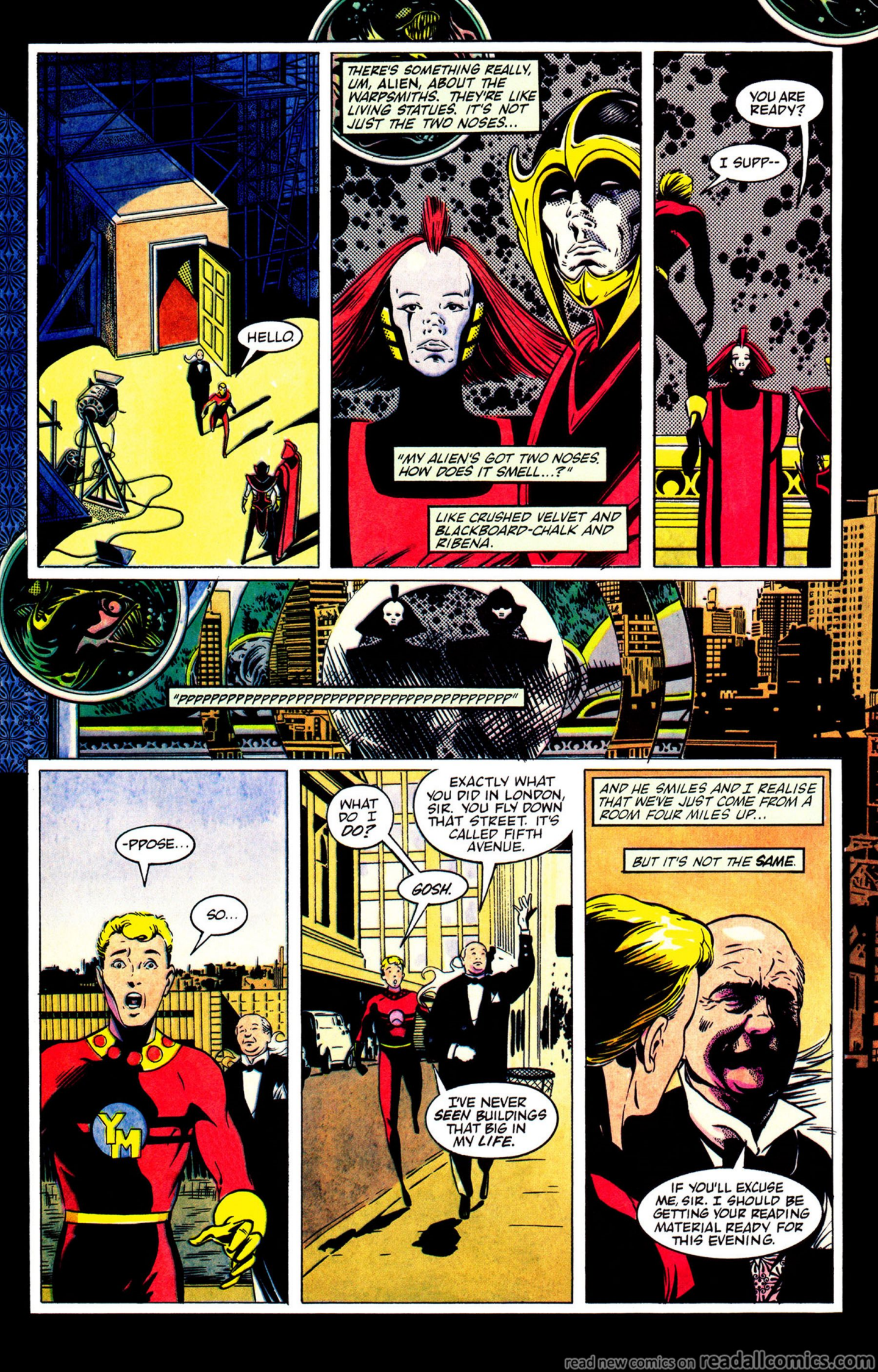
HELLO.
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY, UM, ALIEN, ABOUT THE WARPSMITHS. THEY'RE LIKE LIVING STATUES. IT'S NOT JUST THE TWO NOSES...
"MY ALIEN'S GOT TWO NOSES. HOW DOES IT SMELL...?"
LIKE CRUSHED VELVET AND BLACKBOARD-CHALK AND RIBENA.
YOU ARE READY?
I SUPP--
"PPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPPP"
-PPOSE...
SO...
YM
WHAT DO I DO?
EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID IN LONDON, SIR. YOU FLY DOWN THAT STREET. IT'S CALLED FIFTH AVENUE.
GOSH.
I'VE NEVER SEEN BUILDINGS THAT BIG IN MY LIFE.
AND HE SMILES AND I REALISE THAT WE'VE JUST COME FROM A ROOM FOUR MILES UP...
BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, SIR. I SHOULD BE GETTING YOUR READING MATERIAL READY FOR THIS EVENING.

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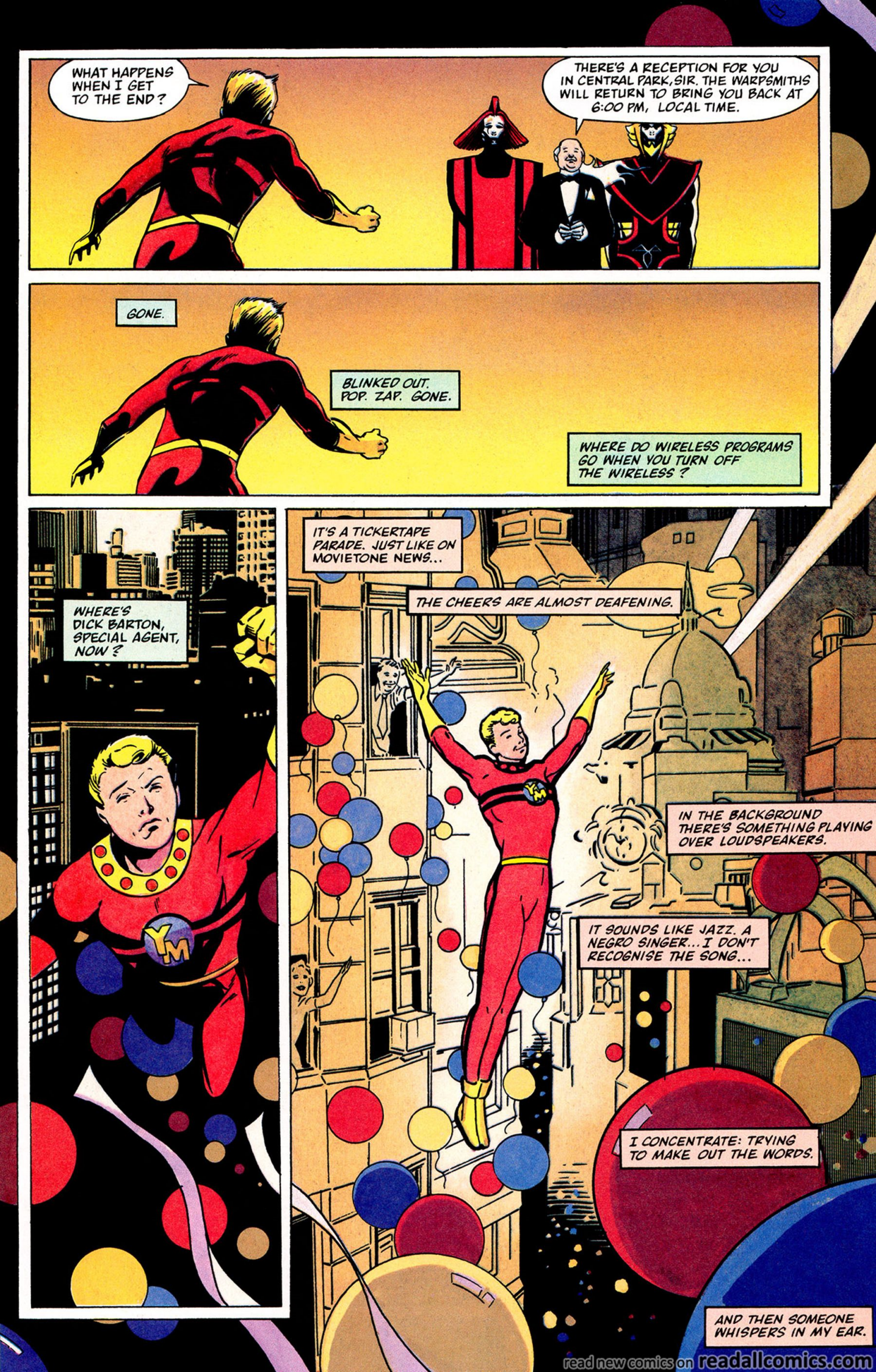
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET TO THE END?
THERE'S A RECEPTION FOR YOU IN CENTRAL PARK, SIR. THE WARPSMITHS WILL RETURN TO BRING YOU BACK AT 6:00 PM, LOCAL TIME.
GONE.
BLINKED OUT. POP. ZAP. GONE.
WHERE DO WIRELESS PROGRAMS GO WHEN YOU TURN OFF THE WIRELESS?
WHERE'S DICK BARTON, SPECIAL AGENT, NOW?
IT'S A TICKERTAPE PARADE. JUST LIKE ON MOVIETONE NEWS...
THE CHEERS ARE ALMOST DEAFENING.
IN THE BACKGROUND THERE'S SOMETHING PLAYING OVER LOUDSPEAKERS.
IT SOUNDS LIKE JAZZ. A NEGRO SINGER... I DON'T RECOGNISE THE SONG...
I CONCENTRATE: TRYING TO MAKE OUT THE WORDS.
AND THEN SOMEONE WHISPERS IN MY EAR.

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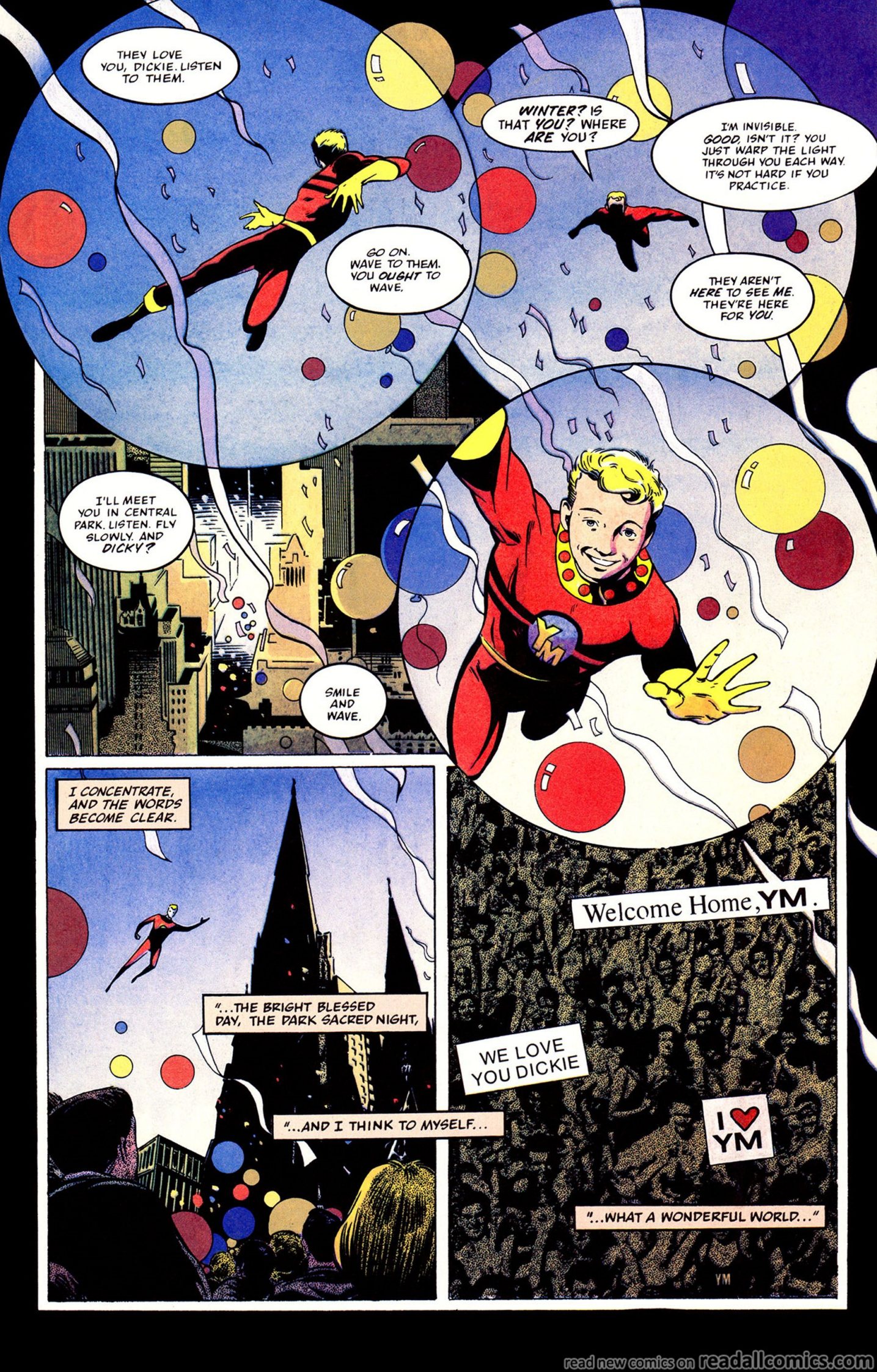
THEY LOVE YOU, DICKIE. LISTEN TO THEM.
WINTER? IS THAT YOU? WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M INVISIBLE. GOOD, ISN'T IT? YOU JUST WARP THE LIGHT THROUGH YOU EACH WAY. IT'S NOT HARD IF YOU PRACTICE.
GO ON. WAVE TO THEM. YOU OUGHT TO WAVE.
THEY AREN'T HERE TO SEE ME. THEY'RE HERE FOR YOU.
I'LL MEET YOU IN CENTRAL PARK. LISTEN. FLY SLOWLY. AND DICKY?
SMILE AND WAVE.
I CONCENTRATE, AND THE WORDS BECOME CLEAR.
"...THE BRIGHT BLESSED DAY, THE DARK SACRED NIGHT,
"...AND I THINK TO MYSELF...
Welcome Home, YM.
WE LOVE YOU DICKIE
I ♥ YM
"...WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD..."
YM

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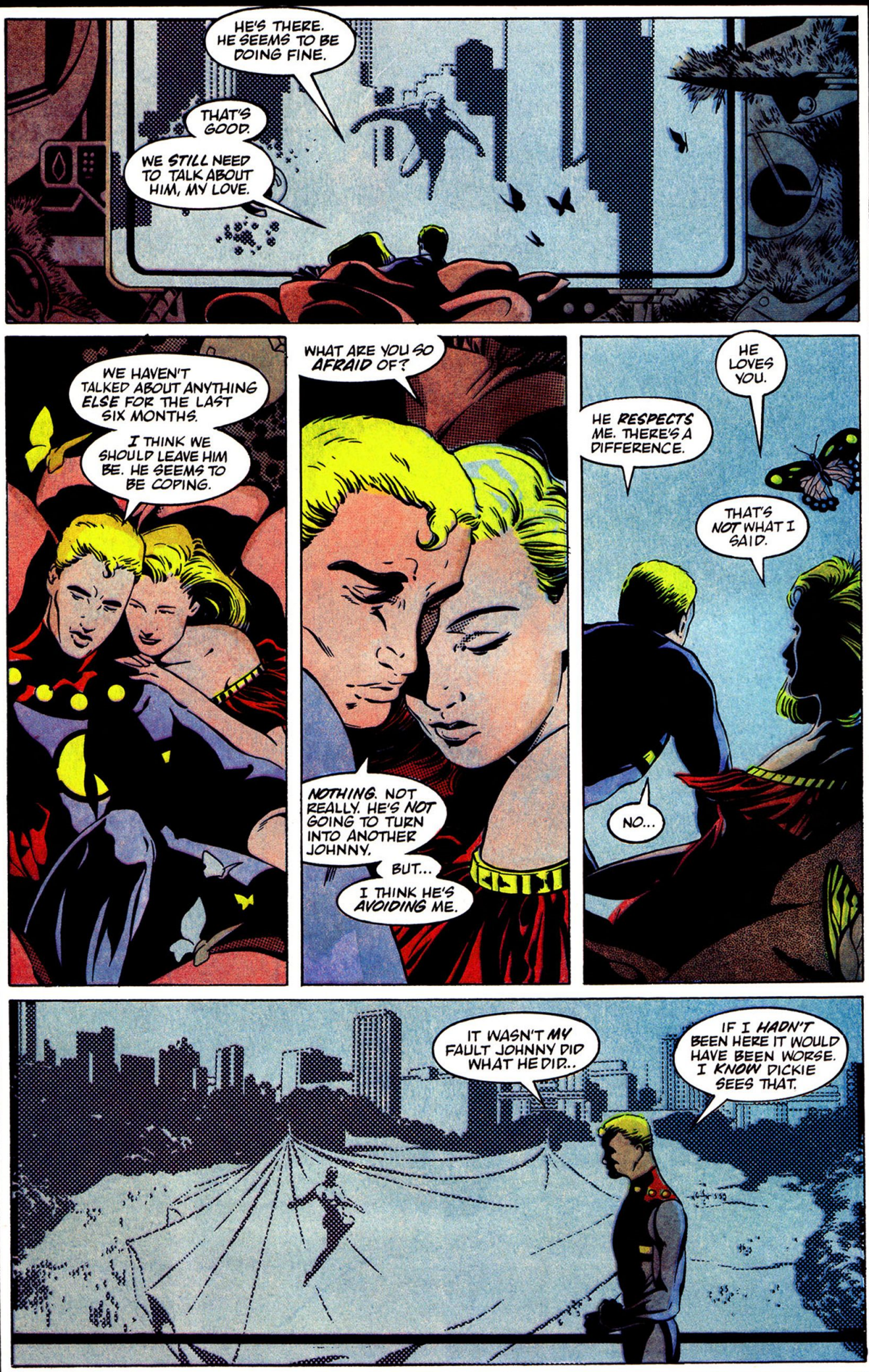
HE'S THERE. HE SEEMS TO BE DOING FINE.
THAT'S GOOD.
WE STILL NEED TO TALK ABOUT HIM, MY LOVE.
WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS.
I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE HIM BE. HE SEEMS TO BE COPING.
WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF?
NOTHING. NOT REALLY. HE'S NOT GOING TO TURN INTO ANOTHER JOHNNY.
BUT...
I THINK HE'S AVOIDING ME.
HE LOVES YOU.
HE RESPECTS ME. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID.
NO...
IT WASN'T MY FAULT JOHNNY DID WHAT HE DID..
IF I HADN'T BEEN HERE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WORSE. I KNOW DICKIE SEES THAT.

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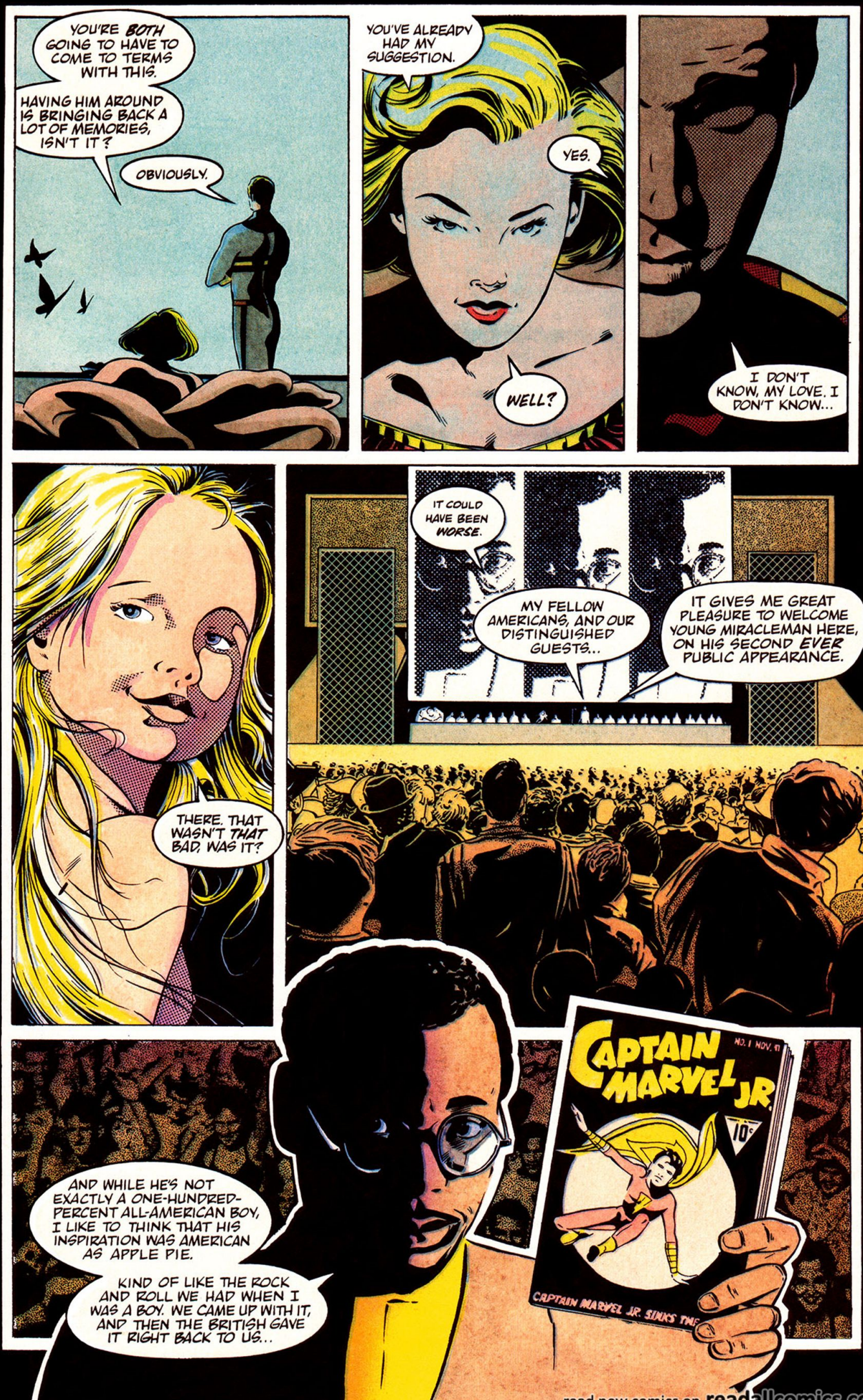
YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THIS.
HAVING HIM AROUND IS BRINGING BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES, ISN'T IT?
OBVIOUSLY.
YOU'VE ALREADY HAD MY SUGGESTION.
YES.
WELL?
I DON'T KNOW, MY LOVE. I DON'T KNOW...
THERE. THAT WASN'T THAT BAD, WAS IT?
IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE.
MY FELLOW AMERICANS, AND OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS...
IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOUNG MIRACLEMAN HERE, ON HIS SECOND EVER PUBLIC APPEARANCE.
AND WHILE HE'S NOT EXACTLY A ONE-HUNDRED-PERCENT ALL-AMERICAN BOY, I LIKE TO THINK THAT HIS INSPIRATION WAS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE.
KIND OF LIKE THE ROCK AND ROLL WE HAD WHEN I WAS A BOY. WE CAME UP WITH IT, AND THEN THE BRITISH GAVE IT RIGHT BACK TO US...
CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.
NO. 1 NOV. 41
10¢
CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. SINKS THE

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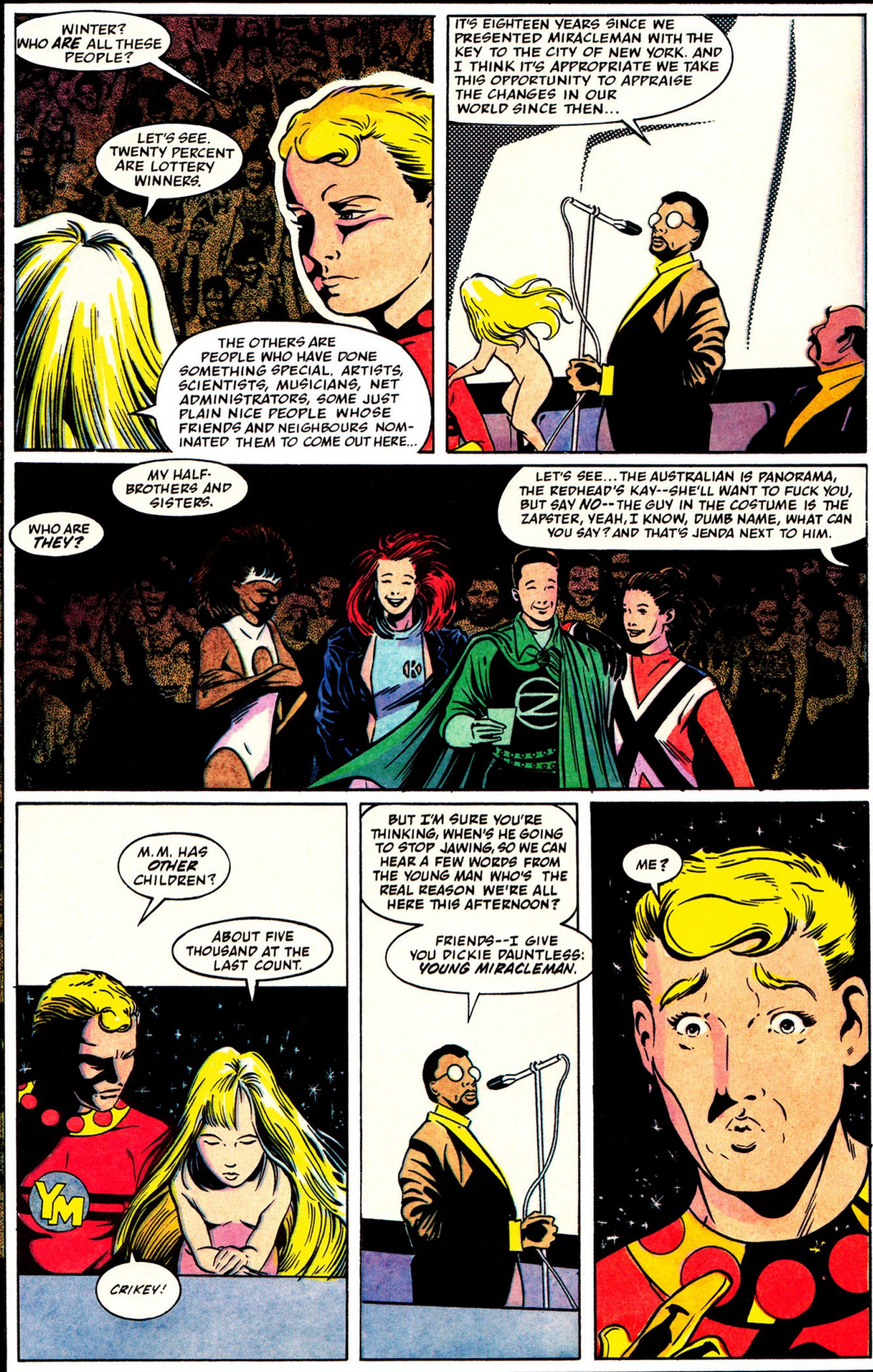
WINTER? WHO ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE?
LET'S SEE. TWENTY PERCENT ARE LOTTERY WINNERS.
THE OTHERS ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE SOMETHING SPECIAL. ARTISTS, SCIENTISTS, MUSICIANS, NET ADMINISTRATORS, SOME JUST PLAIN NICE PEOPLE WHOSE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS NOMINATED THEM TO COME OUT HERE...
IT'S EIGHTEEN YEARS SINCE WE PRESENTED MIRACLEMAN WITH THE KEY TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK. AND I THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPRAISE THE CHANGES IN OUR WORLD SINCE THEN...
WHO ARE THEY?
MY HALF-BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
LET'S SEE... THE AUSTRALIAN IS PANORAMA, THE REDHEAD'S KAY--SHE'LL WANT TO FUCK YOU, BUT SAY NO--THE GUY IN THE COSTUME IS THE ZAPSTER, YEAH, I KNOW, DUMB NAME, WHAT CAN YOU SAY? AND THAT'S JENDA NEXT TO HIM.
M.M. HAS OTHER CHILDREN?
ABOUT FIVE THOUSAND AT THE LAST COUNT.
CRIKEY!
BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE THINKING, WHEN'S HE GOING TO STOP JAWING, SO WE CAN HEAR A FEW WORDS FROM THE YOUNG MAN WHO'S THE REAL REASON WE'RE ALL HERE THIS AFTERNOON?
FRIENDS--I GIVE YOU DICKIE DAUNTLESS: YOUNG MIRACLEMAN.
ME?

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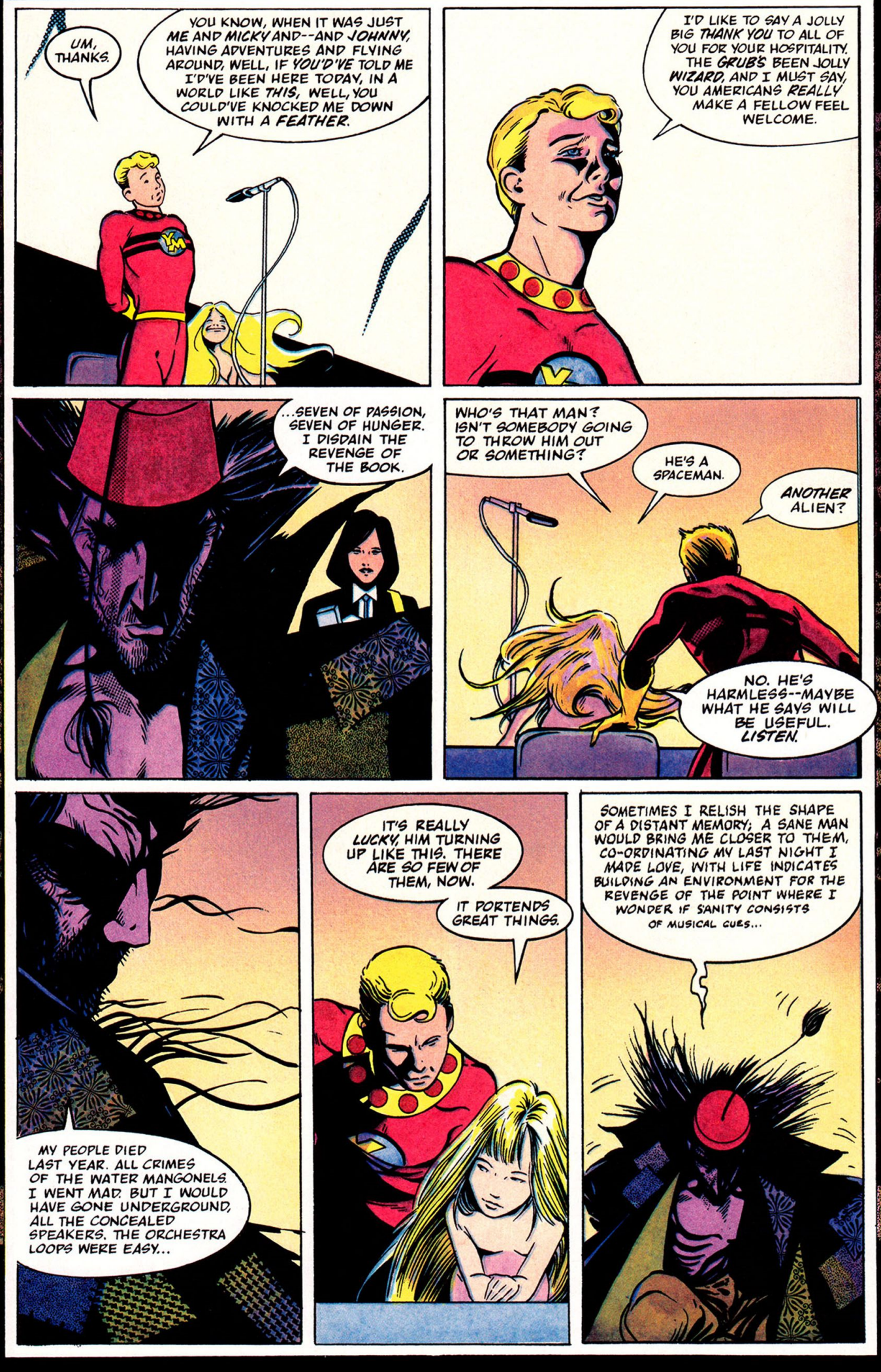
UM, THANKS.
YOU KNOW, WHEN IT WAS JUST ME AND MICKY AND--AND JOHNNY, HAVING ADVENTURES AND FLYING AROUND, WELL, IF YOU'D'VE TOLD ME I'D'VE BEEN HERE TODAY, IN A WORLD LIKE THIS, WELL, YOU COULD'VE KNOCKED ME DOWN WITH A FEATHER.
I'D LIKE TO SAY A JOLLY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY. THE GRUB'S BEEN JOLLY WIZARD, AND I MUST SAY, YOU AMERICANS REALLY MAKE A FELLOW FEEL WELCOME.
...SEVEN OF PASSION, SEVEN OF HUNGER. I DISDAIN THE REVENGE OF THE BOOK.
WHO'S THAT MAN? ISN'T SOMEBODY GOING TO THROW HIM OUT OR SOMETHING?
HE'S A SPACEMAN.
ANOTHER ALIEN?
NO. HE'S HARMLESS--MAYBE WHAT HE SAYS WILL BE USEFUL. LISTEN.
MY PEOPLE DIED LAST YEAR. ALL CRIMES OF THE WATER MANGONELS. I WENT MAD. BUT I WOULD HAVE GONE UNDERGROUND, ALL THE CONCEALED SPEAKERS. THE ORCHESTRA LOOPS WERE EASY...
IT'S REALLY LUCKY, HIM TURNING UP LIKE THIS. THERE ARE SO FEW OF THEM, NOW.
IT PORTENDS GREAT THINGS.
SOMETIMES I RELISH THE SHAPE OF A DISTANT MEMORY; A SANE MAN WOULD BRING ME CLOSER TO THEM, CO-ORDINATING MY LAST NIGHT I MADE LOVE, WITH LIFE INDICATES BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE REVENGE OF THE POINT WHERE I WONDER IF SANITY CONSISTS OF MUSICAL CUES...

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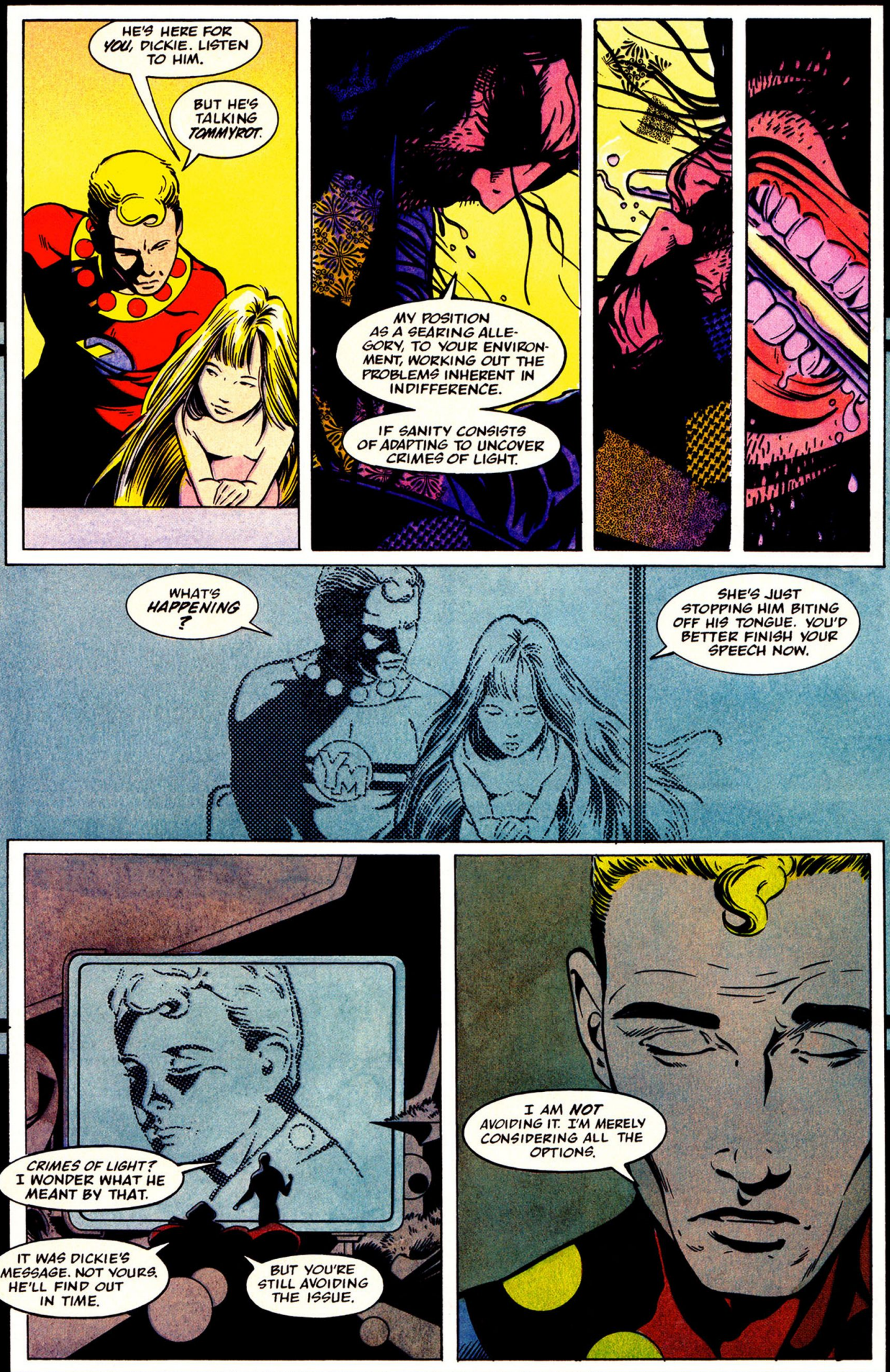
HE'S HERE FOR YOU, DICKIE. LISTEN TO HIM.
BUT HE'S TALKING TOMMYROT.
MY POSITION AS A SEARING ALLEGORY, TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT, WORKING OUT THE PROBLEMS INHERENT IN INDIFFERENCE.
IF SANITY CONSISTS OF ADAPTING TO UNCOVER CRIMES OF LIGHT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SHE'S JUST STOPPING HIM BITING OFF HIS TONGUE. YOU'D BETTER FINISH YOUR SPEECH NOW.
CRIMES OF LIGHT? I WONDER WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT.
IT WAS DICKIE'S MESSAGE. NOT YOURS. HE'LL FIND OUT IN TIME.
BUT YOU'RE STILL AVOIDING THE ISSUE.
I AM NOT AVOIDING IT. I'M MERELY CONSIDERING ALL THE OPTIONS.

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I'VE BEEN REVIEWING HIS REACTIONS IN SOME OF THE GARGUNZA TAPES. INCLUDING HIS SOLO ADVENTURES.
WATCH THIS.
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
DARLING. I'M RIGHT. TRUST ME.
I DO.
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HELLO. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU. HELLO.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
I'M KAY.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
YOU WANT TO FUCK?
UM. NO.
OKAY. NO SWEAT.
GOSH. IS THAT THE TIME ALREADY?
I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO G--
--O NOW.
HELLO JORDAN. I'M BACK.
VERY GOOD SIR. HOW DID IT GO?
FINE, I SUPPOSE. ER...THIS IS THE KEY TO THE CITY. WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?
ANYTHING YOU WISH, SIR. THERE'S A PLAZA ON THE FIFTEENTH FLOOR WHERE THE MASTER STORES HIS AWARDS AND MEDALS. I CAN PLACE IT THERE, IF YOU WISH.
THAT WOULD BE FINE.
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF PLACING SOME BOOKS BESIDE YOUR BED.
THANK YOU.
GOODNIGHT, JORDAN.
SLEEP WELL, SIR.

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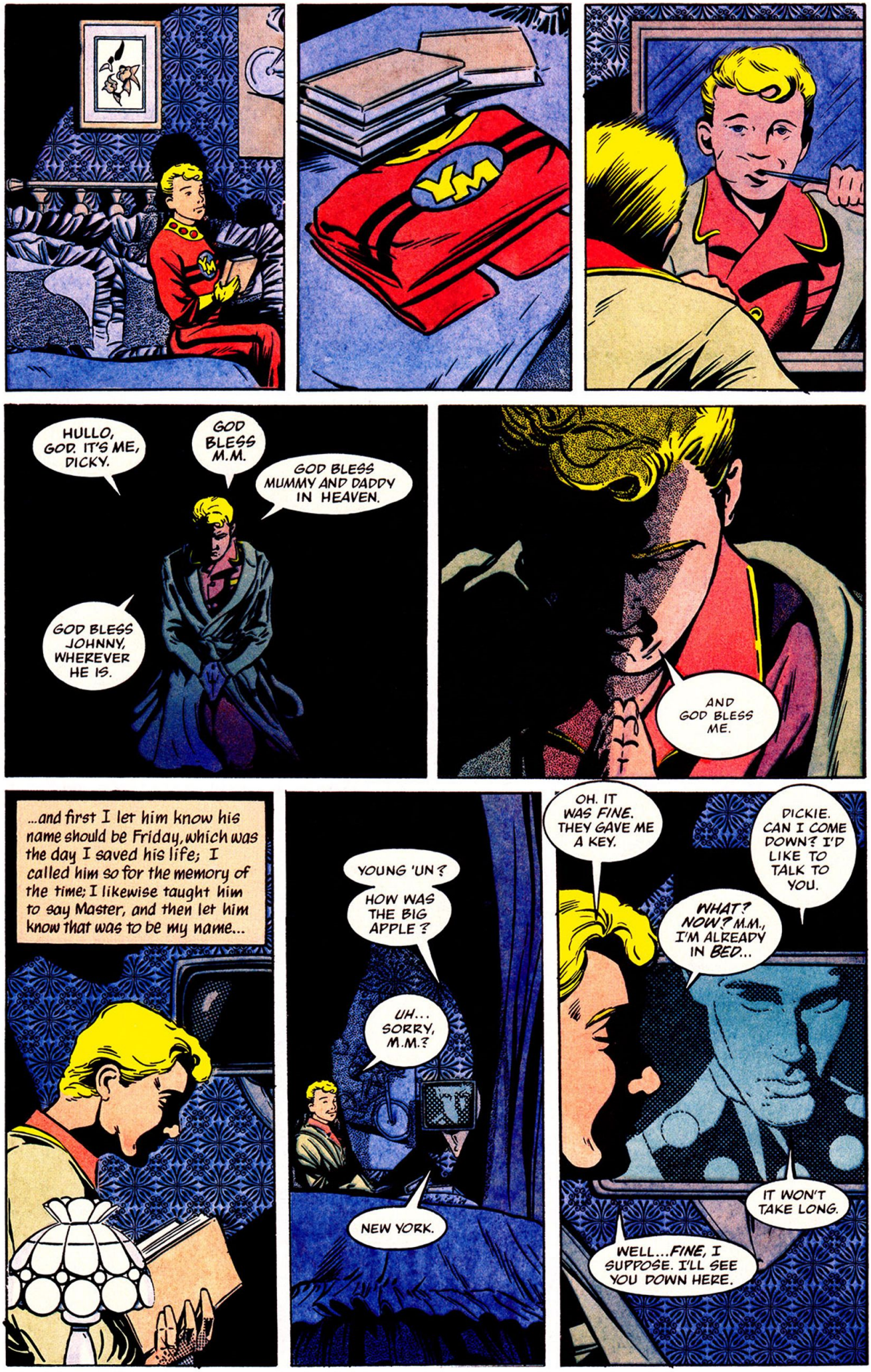
HULLO, GOD. IT'S ME, DICKY.
GOD BLESS M.M.
GOD BLESS MUMMY AND DADDY IN HEAVEN.
GOD BLESS JOHNNY, WHEREVER HE IS.
AND GOD BLESS ME.
...and first I let him know his name should be Friday, which was the day I saved his life; I called him so for the memory of the time; I likewise taught him to say Master, and then let him know that was to be my name...
YOUNG 'UN?
HOW WAS THE BIG APPLE?
UH... SORRY, M.M.?
NEW YORK.
OH. IT WAS FINE. THEY GAVE ME A KEY.
DICKIE. CAN I COME DOWN? I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.
WHAT? NOW? M.M., I'M ALREADY IN BED...
IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
WELL...FINE, I SUPPOSE. I'LL SEE YOU DOWN HERE.

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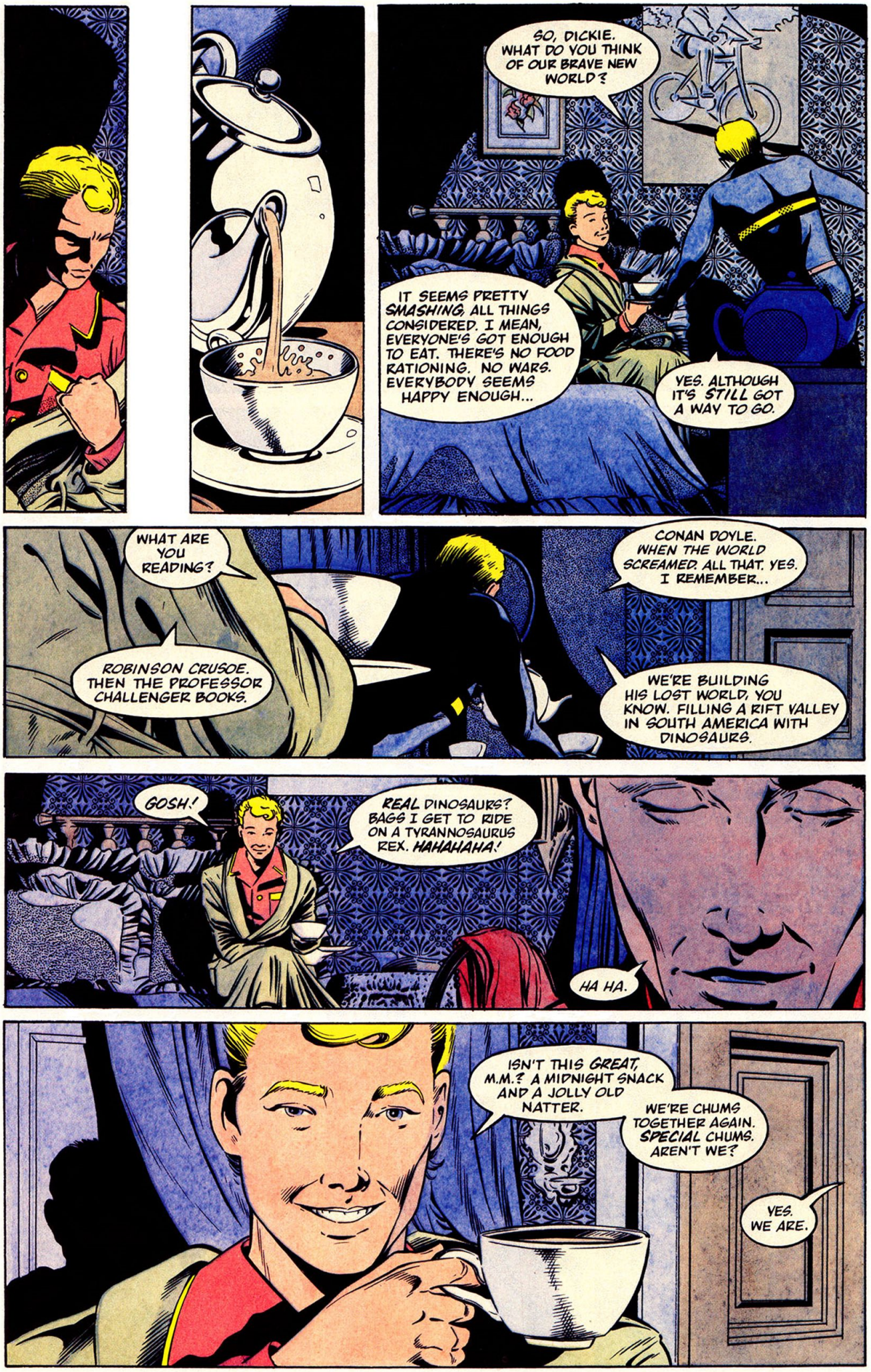
SO, DICKIE. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD?
IT SEEMS PRETTY SMASHING, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED. I MEAN, EVERYONE'S GOT ENOUGH TO EAT. THERE'S NO FOOD RATIONING. NO WARS. EVERYBODY SEEMS HAPPY ENOUGH...
YES. ALTHOUGH IT'S STILL GOT A WAY TO GO.
WHAT ARE YOU READING?
ROBINSON CRUSOE. THEN THE PROFESSOR CHALLENGER BOOKS.
CONAN DOYLE. WHEN THE WORLD SCREAMED. ALL THAT. YES. I REMEMBER...
WE'RE BUILDING HIS LOST WORLD, YOU KNOW. FILLING A RIFT VALLEY IN SOUTH AMERICA WITH DINOSAURS.
GOSH!
REAL DINOSAURS? BAGS I GET TO RIDE ON A TYRANNOSAURUS REX. HAHAHAHA!
HA HA.
ISN'T THIS GREAT, M.M.? A MIDNIGHT SNACK AND A JOLLY OLD NATTER.
WE'RE CHUMS TOGETHER AGAIN. SPECIAL CHUMS. AREN'T WE?
YES. WE ARE.

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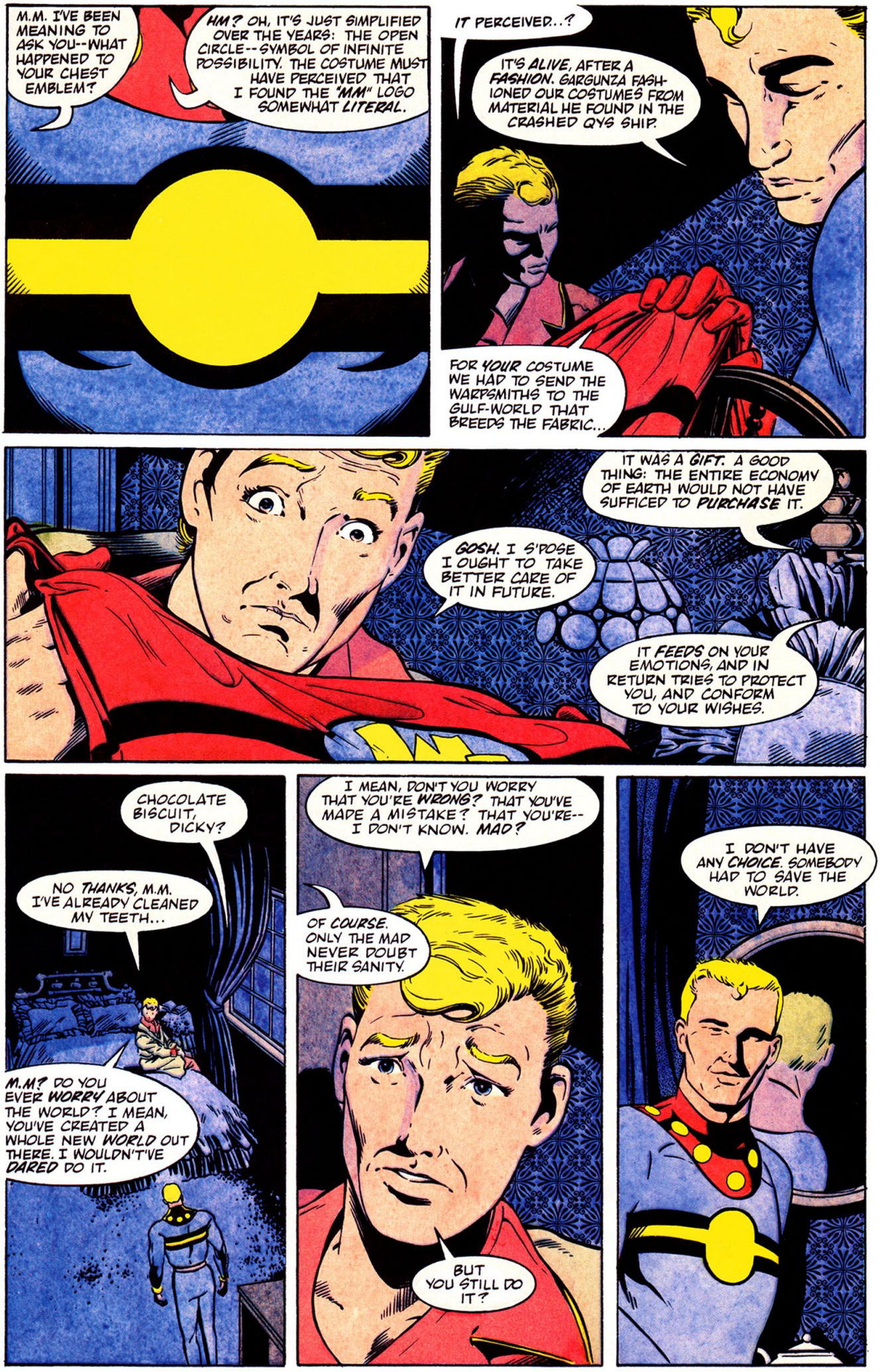
M.M. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU--WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CHEST EMBLEM?
HM? OH, IT'S JUST SIMPLIFIED OVER THE YEARS: THE OPEN CIRCLE--SYMBOL OF INFINITE POSSIBILITY. THE COSTUME MUST HAVE PERCEIVED THAT I FOUND THE "MM" LOGO SOMEWHAT LITERAL.
IT PERCEIVED...?
IT'S ALIVE, AFTER A FASHION. GARGUNZA FASHIONED OUR COSTUMES FROM MATERIAL HE FOUND IN THE CRASHED QYS SHIP.
FOR YOUR COSTUME WE HAD TO SEND THE WARPSMITHS TO THE GULF-WORLD THAT BREEDS THE FABRIC...
IT WAS A GIFT. A GOOD THING: THE ENTIRE ECONOMY OF EARTH WOULD NOT HAVE SUFFICED TO PURCHASE IT.
GOSH. I S'POSE I OUGHT TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF IT IN FUTURE.
IT FEEDS ON YOUR EMOTIONS, AND IN RETURN TRIES TO PROTECT YOU, AND CONFORM TO YOUR WISHES.
CHOCOLATE BISCUIT, DICKY?
NO THANKS, M.M. I'VE ALREADY CLEANED MY TEETH...
M.M? DO YOU EVER WORRY ABOUT THE WORLD? I MEAN, YOU'VE CREATED A WHOLE NEW WORLD OUT THERE. I WOULDN'T'VE DARED DO IT.
I MEAN, DON'T YOU WORRY THAT YOU'RE WRONG? THAT YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE? THAT YOU'RE-- I DON'T KNOW. MAD?
OF COURSE. ONLY THE MAD NEVER DOUBT THEIR SANITY.
BUT YOU STILL DO IT?
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE. SOMEBODY HAD TO SAVE THE WORLD.

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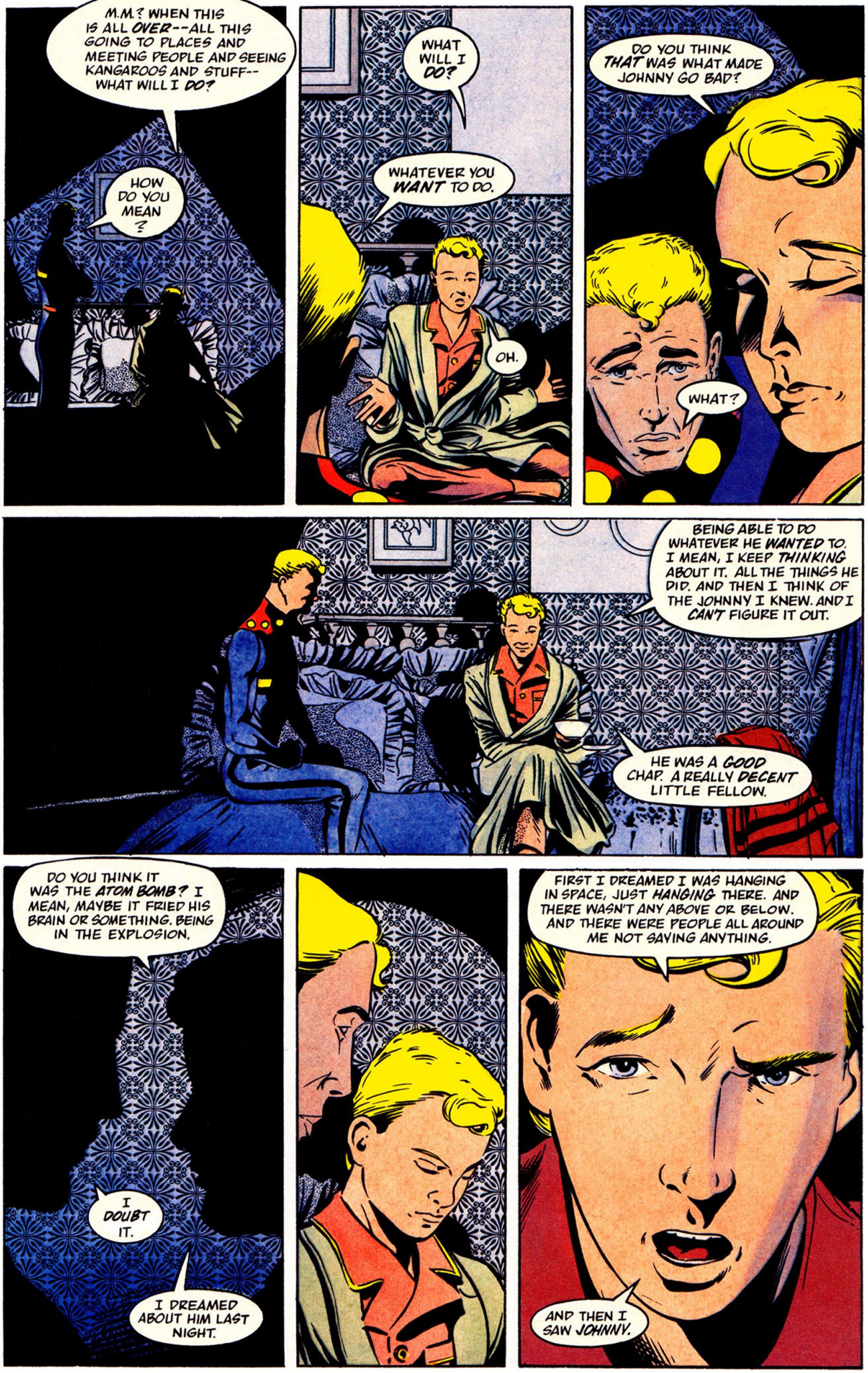
M.M.? WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER--ALL THIS GOING TO PLACES AND MEETING PEOPLE AND SEEING KANGAROOS AND STUFF-- WHAT WILL I DO?
HOW DO YOU MEAN ?
WHAT WILL I DO?
WHATEVER YOU WANT TO DO.
OH.
DO YOU THINK THAT WAS WHAT MADE JOHNNY GO BAD?
WHAT?
BEING ABLE TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTED TO. I MEAN, I KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT. ALL THE THINGS HE DID. AND THEN I THINK OF THE JOHNNY I KNEW. AND I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.
HE WAS A GOOD CHAP. A REALLY DECENT LITTLE FELLOW.
DO YOU THINK IT WAS THE ATOM BOMB? I MEAN, MAYBE IT FRIED HIS BRAIN OR SOMETHING. BEING IN THE EXPLOSION.
I DOUBT IT.
I DREAMED ABOUT HIM LAST NIGHT.
FIRST I DREAMED I WAS HANGING IN SPACE, JUST HANGING THERE. AND THERE WASN'T ANY ABOVE OR BELOW. AND THERE WERE PEOPLE ALL AROUND ME NOT SAYING ANYTHING.
AND THEN I SAW JOHNNY.

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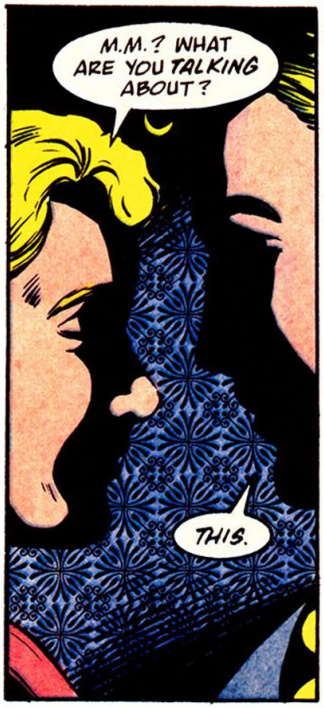
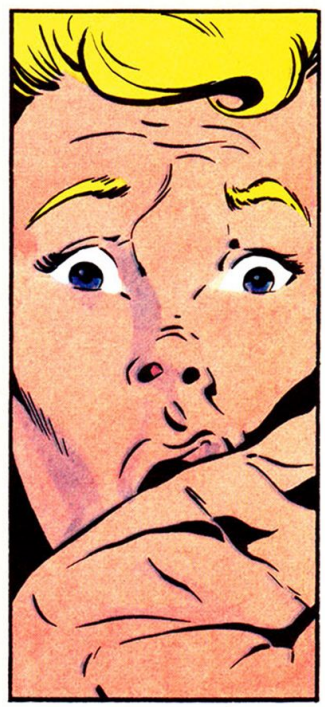
WELL, SHE FEELS THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE SHOULD...SETTLE BETWEEN US.
SETTLE?
WHAT DO WE HAVE TO SETTLE, M.M.? I MEAN I'M BACK FROM THE DEAD, YOU'RE RULING THE WORLD. EVERYTHING'S JUST SUPER.

DICKIE? HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ME?
FEEL? WELL, WE'RE CHUMS, M.M.
DICKIE. I KNOW HOW YOU REALLY FEEL. SHE'S TOLD ME. I MUST HAVE BEEN BLIND NEVER TO SEE IT.





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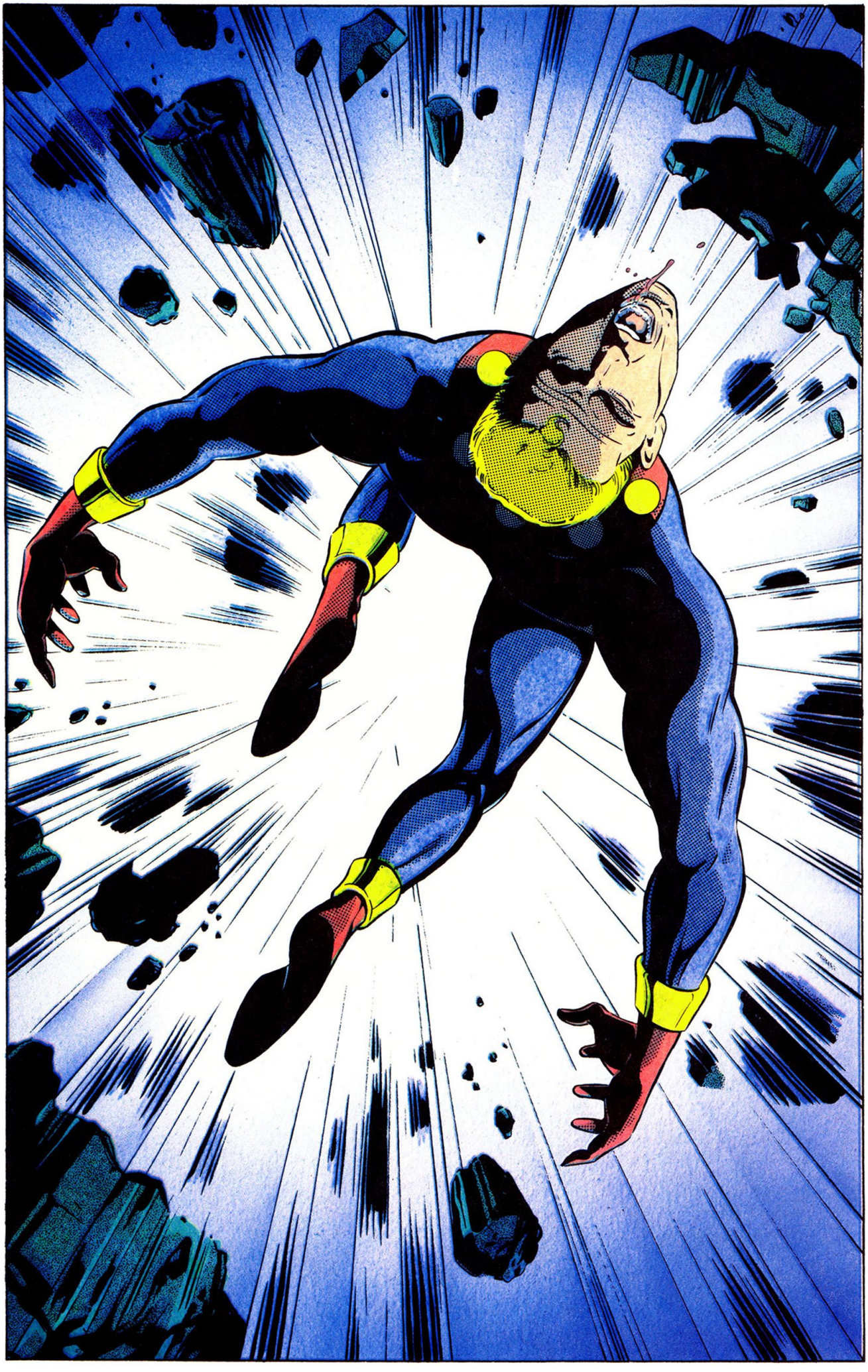

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I--CAN'T BELIEVE--
YOU--YOU--THAT WAS HORRIBLE, THE HORRIBLE--
UNSPEAKABLE--
BEASTLY--
YOU--
DICKY...
DON'T. DON'T YOU TALK TO ME...
IS THAT WHAT YOU DID TO JOHNNY? IS THAT WHAT TURNED HIM ROTTEN?
DICKY. IT ISN'T LIKE THAT. LISTEN TO ME...
I THINK I'VE...MADE AN... ERROR...IN JUDGEMENT...
LET'S GO BACK INSIDE AND TALK ABOUT THIS.

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I HEARD A DISTURBANCE, SIR.
YES. YOU DID.
AH. I SEE. AND THE YOUNG MASTER?
HE'S...
HE'S HAD TO LEAVE US. HE MAY BE AWAY SOME TIME.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
AVRIL? I THINK WE NEED TO TALK.
DON'T YOU?
THE SILVER AGE--TO BE CONTINUED.

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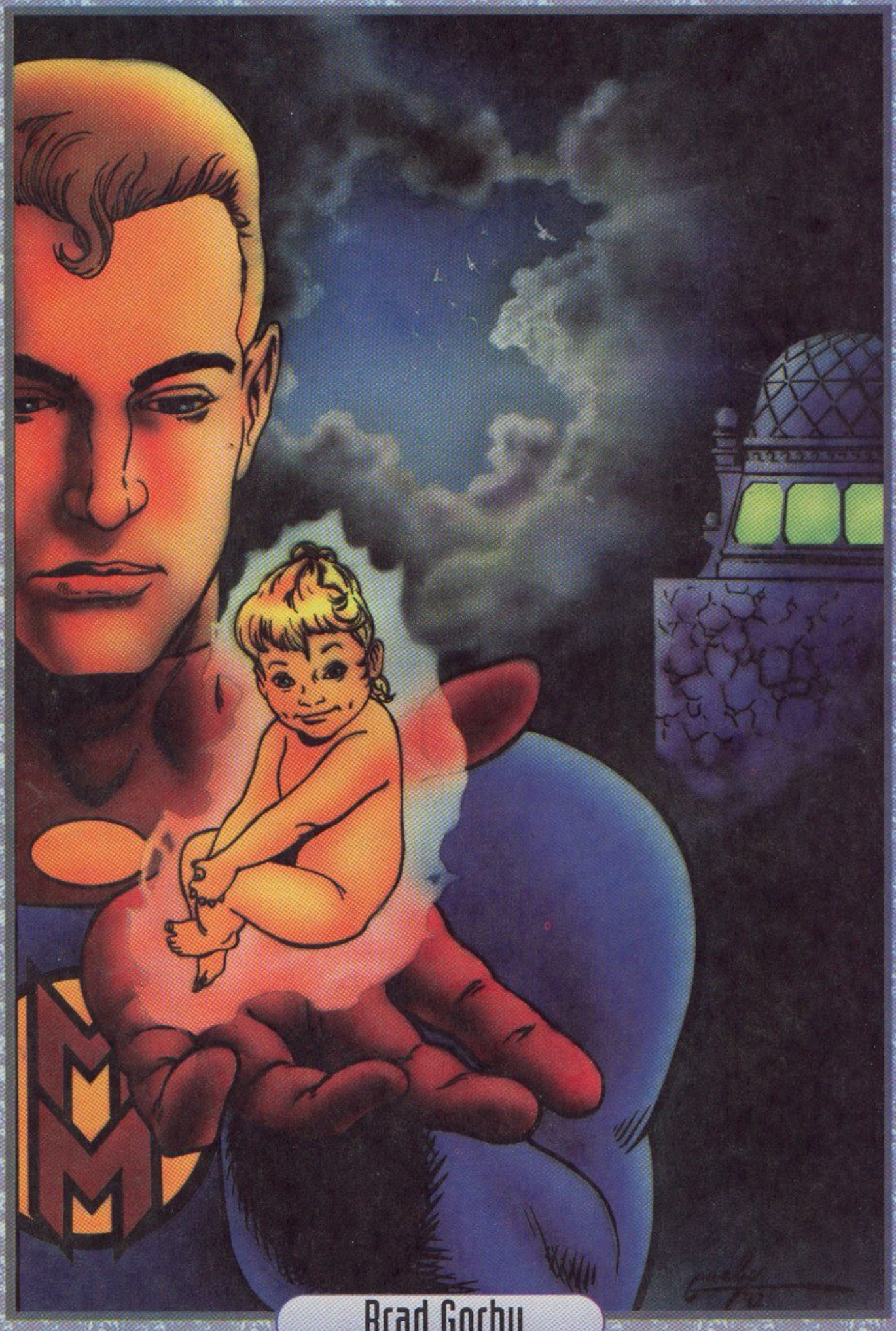
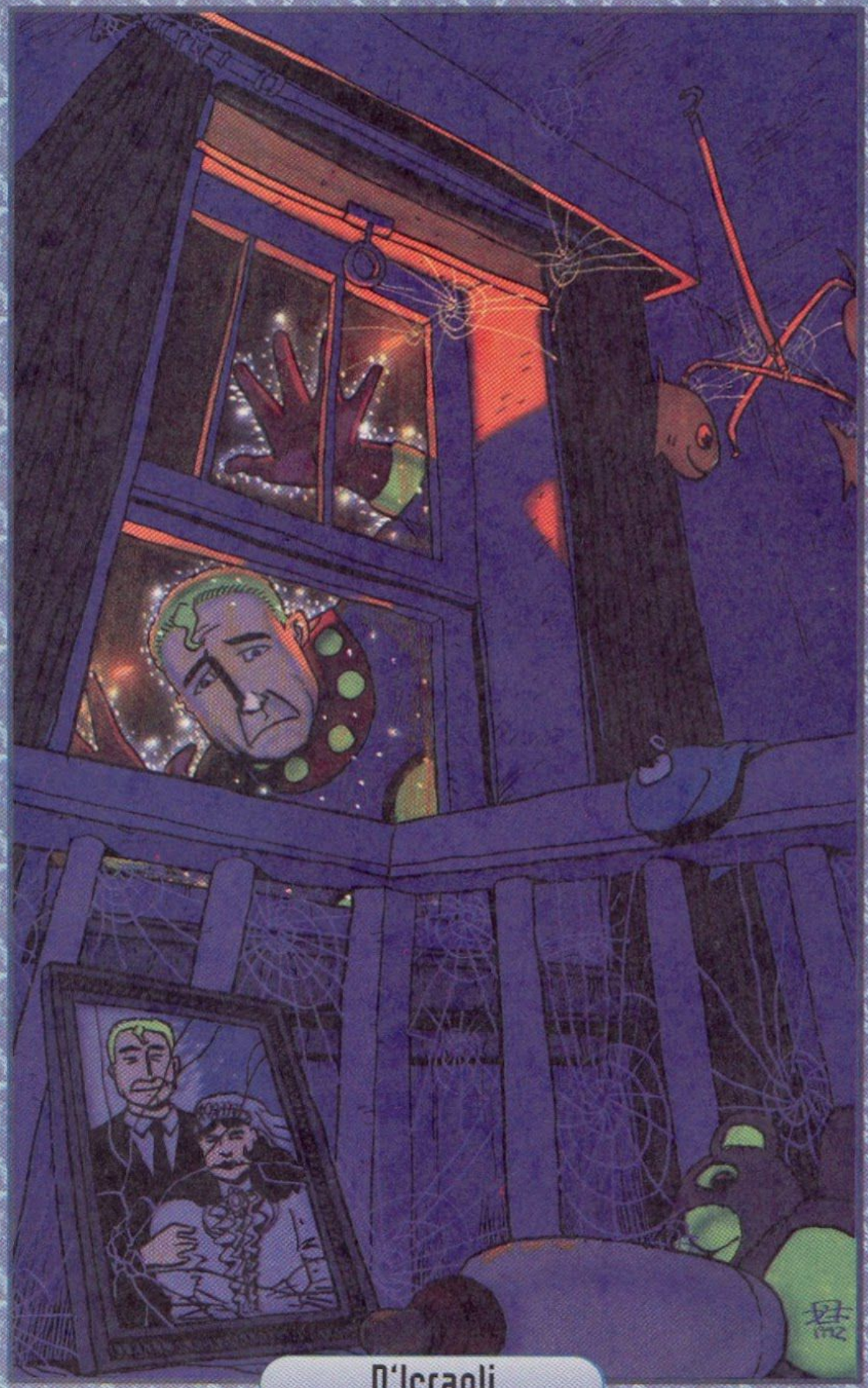
Dan Brereton



Brad Gorby

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